INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROJECTS (R1 SMALL GRANTS)
CY 2014 FINAL REPORT

Project Title: MP31 Phragmites Control

Station: Columbia NWR (Mid-Columbia River NWR Complex)

Contact Person: Kevin Goldie

Project Description: The project as described was to chemically treat invasive Phragmites (aka, common reed) along Lower Crab Creek within the MP31 Fire area, to protect Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) treatments. The MP31 Fire burned a portion of the Lower Crab Creek area in 2012; multiple integrated rehabilitation treatments were undertaken in response. Phragmites had expanded into the burned area to an unforeseen degree, threatening the rehab treatments. Phragmites is a highly aggressive invader that will form monocultures at the expense of native habitats. This invasion required an aggressive response to protect the substantial investment. BAR funding was no longer available for this response.

Invasive Species Targeted: Common reed (*Phragmites australis*)

Project Completion Date or Estimated Completion Date: 17-Sept-2014

Project Results: Unexpected commitments under the Sikes Act (i.e., weed treatment on Mountain Home and Fairchild Air Force Bases) meant no USFWS personnel or equipment was available to treat the Phragmites in the MP31 Fire area as had been originally intended. Instead, the Phragmites was chemically treated under contract by personnel from Benson Farms Inc. (BFI), using a tank mix of Clearcast (imazamox; EPA Reg # 241-437) @ 4 pts/acre, Rodeo (aquatic-use labeled glyphosate; EPA Reg # 228-365) @ 6 pts/acre, and Liberate surfactant @ 2 pts/acre. USFWS purchased and supplied the chemicals to BFI. One of their licensed applicators made the treatment in mid-September. BFI mapped their application areas using a handheld GPS unit. This showed the Phragmites infestation to be more widespread than originally thought, but also to be comprised of more disjunct patches than fully connected monocultures. Based on what has been observed on other refuges within the Complex, this would seem to support that the infestation is early in its invasion of the area, and that it had (or possibly has) the potential to completely overtake the riparian zones within the fire area, especially this early in the post-fire rehabilitation process.

Treatment efficacy cannot be determined until 2015.

Number of Acres Treated: ~8 acres w/in ~15 acres

Number of Acres Inventoried and/or Mapped: ~15 acres

Number of Acres Restored: unk

Total Grant Amount: $12,650

Breakdown of Expenditures*:

Category	**Total $ Spent**	**% of Total Grant**
Equipment/Supplies	---	---
Chemical	$2,285	18.1%
Biocontrol Agents	---	---
Travel	$800	6.3%
Biotech/Contractor Salary	$3,880	30.7%
Restoration Materials	---	---
Other (Spray Contract)	$5,685	44.9%
TOTAL	$12,650	100%

** estimated*